



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Resident:

February 2014

As you may be aware, there is an ongoing environmental cleanup at the former Intersil-Siemens Site located at 10900-10950 North Tantau Avenue in Cupertino (Site). The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board are continuing to direct this long-term cleanup and associated investigations. The purpose of the study is to determine if certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are migrating as vapors from groundwater into the indoor air of nearby buildings (a process called "vapor intrusion"). **As a precaution, EPA would like your permission to test the air inside your home to determine if vapor intrusion is occurring. There is no cost to you for this testing.**

The main VOC that we are concerned about in this investigation – trichloroethene (TCE) – has been detected in groundwater in your neighborhood. Please be aware that your drinking water is not affected by this contamination. Your water comes from municipal sources, not from groundwater in this area. In the summer of 2012, EPA approached residents near the Site requesting to sample the air inside their homes for VOCs related to the Site, including TCE. The results showed minimal detections of VOCs within indoor air and these detections are not likely related to vapor intrusion.

At this time, we would like to conduct another round of indoor air sampling at some area residences, including your home. There are three reasons for requesting another round of sampling: 1) this past year EPA lowered its standard of protection for TCE, and while this did not change the results of the previous study, we believe that a second round of sampling is important to confirm that the new, lower levels are not being exceeded; 2) vapor intrusion can vary over time, so we would like to sample during the winter when there may be a greater potential for vapor intrusion; and 3) we would like to sample homes that were not tested previously.

VOCs are chemicals that are contained in products commonly used in industry and often around the home. They can be present in both indoor and outdoor air, especially in urban environments like Santa Clara County. Products containing VOCs that you might be familiar with include paints, paint strippers, rust removers, gun cleaners, spot removers, carpet cleaners and other cleaning supplies, adhesives, and permanent markers. VOCs can move as vapors from groundwater through soil under certain conditions. If vapors move under a home or other building, it is possible for them to migrate and accumulate inside. If this happens and if the levels of VOCs are high and prolonged enough, then it may create a health hazard for residents.

The process for testing for VOCs in indoor air involves placing a sampling device in your home that takes in air over a 24-hour to 2-week period. EPA prefers to use the 2-week sampler, but can work with you if you prefer a shorter sampling time. EPA will notify you of the results within a few weeks after the laboratory testing is completed. Should VOCs be present in your home at levels that require further evaluation or corrective actions, EPA will present options to you and your family as to how we would complete the evaluation or correct the situation. There is no cost to you for this process.

Please contact us at (415) 972-3050 or morash.melanie@epa.gov so we can set up an appointment and arrange for the sampling. We expect to do the sampling in the next two weeks unless it is not sufficiently cold enough, otherwise, sampling will be postponed until January or February 2015. When you call or e-mail please leave your name, telephone number, mailing address and the best time to reach you. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Melanie Morash, Remedial Project Manager